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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 13 July 1948

SUBJECT

Soviet Attituce Towards Present Berlin Crisis

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- Soviet personnel in Berlin is generally convinced that the Western Allies will leave the city. The present situation is expected to continue with the Soviets patiently holding out. The Western Powers will be faced with increased difficulties and it will be only a matter of time before the untenable position is given up.
- The Soviets see signs of western weakness in the voluntary food donations from Bizonia, Since the Russians do not believe in spontaneous demonstrations, food donations are assumed to be in answer to an official American request. This is viewed as evidence that the Americans do not have a sufficient stock of food to assist the Berliners. Comment: It is believed that the 25X1X above is a significent indication of the Soviet attitude in the present crisis. It confirms previous estimates that the Russians will not yield in Berlin unless strong government pressure is applied.)

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